



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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March 24, 1995

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, Ray Montgomery, Gunsite Peak Mine, S/005/002, Cache County, Utah

Date of Inspection: March 22, 1995
Time of Inspection: 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Conditions: Cool, windy, partly cloudy
Participants: Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To inspect site to determine if variance requests can be granted

This site is located approximately 1/2 mile west of Clarkston, Utah along Myler Creek. Recent weather conditions consisted of 4-5 inches of snow earlier in the night, most of which had melted prior to the inspection. This left the access road very muddy and was impassable with a 4-wheel drive vehicle. The soils in the general area have a high clay content and are very slippery when wet. I had to walk approximately 1/4 mile into the site as indicated on the map that Mr. Montgomery provided with his notice.

I searched the area between the creek to the south, and the road to the north. Agricultural fields were divided by a steep embankment. This embankment area is what is indicated on his map as being the project site location #1. No rock or semi-rock outcropping could be located along this hillside. The area had a good stand of vegetation growing (over 50% ground cover). Although there was a considerable amount of cheat grass, there was a fair stand of bitter brush, oregon grape, and an unknown wheatgrass present on this hillside. Unless Mr. Montgomery has mismarked his map showing the location of his mine site, there is sufficient soil present that could be salvaged. This site should not be granted the requested variances for salvaging topsoil, respreading topsoil and the subsequent revegetation standards of our rules.

Area 2 appeared to be just on the south side of the drainage that comes out of the canyon. Again, most of this hillside had a good vegetation cover growing. Vegetation consisted of typical canyon brush growth between the small stream and the top of the slope, which broke into agricultural fields. Most of the brush appeared to be cottonwood and maple; although I did not walk into the area (I had no way to cross the stream). This hillside, like the other, was well vegetated and probably should not be granted a variance for topsoil salvage or subsequent respreading or revegetation work.

Aside from inspecting the site with Mr. Montgomery when he begins his mining operation and validating the location of the site (was the site mismarked on the map?), no variances should be granted and he will be expected to meet the reclamation standards.

jb

cc: Ray Montgomery, Operator
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